Making the COTE cast react to their own story because why not?

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Making the COTE cast react to their own story because why not?

Making the COTE cast react to their own story because why not?

by Viseph (V15EPH)

Exactly what the title says, this little story is about making the wonderfully large cast of COTE react to their own story.

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Prologue: The Invasion of The Voice

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It was a bright and sunny day, our very own Ayanokouji Kiyotaka was on his way to school. You couldn't tell from his face, but Ayanokouji was particularly in a bad mood.

Just a couple days ago, he had messed up and got too involve with the case with Sudo and Class C, because of this, Horikita got curious and tried to question her way to Ayanokouji's true abilities, something that he didn't like.

And thus, because he was too busy reflecting on his mistakes, he ended up being late and having to rush to school under the blazing heat of the sun.

Thankfully, the school wasn't too far and he arrived just in time. From there, he made his way to the Class D classroom and when he opened the door... he was met by a very strange situation.

First of all, the room was... no, it wasn't even a room anymore. What should've been the Class D classroom, was bizarrely replaced by a humungous theater, bigger than the one the school had.

That's not all, everyone, every first-year student and teachers were present, and upon closer inspection, was just as confused as Ayanokouji.

"What the fuck is going on here?!" he heard Sudou yell.

"Fuck if we know! Dumbass!" Ishizaki yelled back, dissing him for absolutely no reason.

"Huh?! What'd you say?!"

"Sudou-kun, stop it" / "Stop it, you dumbass, you're not helping." Horikita and Ibuku scolded their classmates at the same time.

Ayanokouji entered the theater and made his way to his classmates.

"Ah, Ayanokouji-kun, you're here," Hirata greeted him.

"Hey. So... can you tell me what's... going on?" Ayanokouji asked, he had never been so confused in his life.

"Yeah, I've asked around, no one knows either. All we know is that the door to every first year classrooms has suddenly... become this," Hirata spoke with clear confusion in his tone.

"No--" before Ayanokouji can reply, a voice echoed throughout the theater, taking everyone by surprised. The voice said: "Ugh, finally, you're here," the voice seemed annoyed, as if it had been waiting for eternity.

Everyone looked around and at each other, looking to confirm where the voice is coming from, but to no avail.

"You just had to run late, didn't you, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka? Just because you're the main protagonist, what makes you think you can keep me waiting?" the voice continued.

"Huh?" Ayanokouji unintentionally let out in reaction to seeing his name mentioned by the mysterious voice.

"Me?"

"That's right, you,"

"But--"

"Oh well, I guess you were in a bad mood after Horikita pried too deep into your past, so I'll forgive you." the voice said something that took Ayanokouji and the mentioned Horikita off guard. To this, murmurs and gossips instantly spread between the students.

"...How do you know that?" Horikita stepped up, completely on her guard.

"Relax, relax, I'm not even scratching the surface yet when it comes to revealing all of your little secrets," the voice laughed, it seemed like he was trying to lighten the mood, but his statement only did the opposite.

The moment the voice talked about their "secrets", everyone tensed up.

"W-What do you mean, s-secrets?!"

"Heh, I knew you would be the first to react to that, Karuizawa Kei. You're secret is a pretty nasty one after all," although they couldn't see their face, all of the students could envision the voice nastily smirking as he threatened Kei, who was struck silent by their words.

"Shut up! Who are you, anyway?! Show yourself!" Hirata uncharacteristically yelled, as he hugged his Kei.

"Wait, calm down, Hirata Yousuke," Mashima-sensei, the homeroom teacher of Class 1-A, stepped up and stopped Hirata. "You, whoever you are, stop this senseless chattering and explain to us what's going on,"

"Okay, okay, fine. Fucking four-eyes, ruining the fun." the voice muttered, apparently unaware that their voice was still loud enough for the students to easily hear.

"So, I'm sure all of you are confused about a lot of stuff, like how this theater exist, how I'm talking to all of you, and who I am, and the answer to all of that is... who the fuck cares?" the voice, out of nowhere, suddenly erupted into an obnoxious laugh.

However, when he saw that no one was reaction, he promptly stopped. **"Damn it, you guys are no fun, aren't you? Boooo."** the voice seemingly pouted before continuing.

"Alright, alright, fine, if you wanna know who I am, I'm a god."

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"Huh?"

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"Whaaaaaaaaaat??!!" the entire first-year student body couldn't believe what they had just heard. The disembodied voice was a god?

"Fufufu, how unexpected indeed. So a god has blessed us with their grace, huh?" Sakayanagi commented.

"Hold on a minute, Sakayanagi, you actually believe them?!" Hashimoto and a couple others stood up and exclaimed.

"Exactly, are you insane?! There's no way whoever this disembodied voice is a god!" Yahiko, as well as some other people, added.

"No, everyone, Sakayanagi's right. The voice being a god is the only answer that makes sense here." Katsuragi stepped in and shared his

thoughts. "Otherwise, how else would explain this entire situation?" he calmly asked.

"But.. Katsuragi-san...!" Yahiko tried to protest, but it seemed like he couldn't protest against Katsuragi's logic.

"Heh, god, huh? So, what? You here to send me down to hell, or what?" Ryuen sneered as he sat down on one of the seats and got comfortable by putting his feet on top of the seat in front of him.

The voice sneered back at Ryuen. "No thanks, I'm not interested in small fry like you, Ryuen Kakeru," they said, riling up Ryuen, who now had a scowl on his face.

"No, no, no. I'm here today for all of you, but specifically, I'm here for Class D's very own Ayanokouji Kiyotaka." the voice declared, surprising everyone.

"Ayanokouji? Who?"

"Why him? Is he someone special?"

"This person... they know something."

"Huh?!" Ryuen audibly stomped his feet on the ground as he stands up to get a better look at Ayanokouji, who doesn't even look back.

"Are you telling me..." Ryuen spoke in a harsh tone as he walked closer to Ayanokouji. "... this gloomy ass dude is better than me?! Huh?!"

"Yeah, what about it?" the voice said, sounding clueless as to why someone would even think of that as weird. That was the statement that broke the camel's back for Ryuen, as he suddenly lunged at Ayanokouji with the intent to kill.

"Ayanokouji-kun, watch out!" Hirata yelled out as everyone else gasped in surprise.

However, further shocking everyone, Ayanokouji easily dodged the blow. It seemed like Ayanokouji wasn't even paying attention to Ryuen, or anyone else, for that matter. He looked like he was in his

own little world.

"A-Ayanokouji-kun...?" Horikita spoke up, clearly worried. This 'woke' Ayanokouji up, thus, he finally regained his senses.

"Hm?" Ayanokouji looked around and saw Ryuen on his knees after he missed the punch. His unbothered face only served to fuel the flames within Ryuen, as he proceeded to throw more punches towards Ayanokouji.

There were a few close calls, but all Ryuen's blows were dodged, "Are you done?" Ayanokouji, ever so emotionless, said, looking down on Ryuen who was, again, on his knees, panting.

Everyone was left speechless, Ryuen, the one student recognized as easily one the strongest first-year fighter, couldn't even so much as touch this gloomy, random, and unassuming student.

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"W-Woah, what the hell, have you been hiding your abilities from us, Ayanokouji?!" Ike was the one to break the silence.

"Hey, hey, did... did he just... dodge every single one of Ryuen-san's attacks?!" Ishizaki could barely get out the words from his mouth. Naturally, the Class C students, who knew first-hand their leader's strength, were the ones who were the most surprised .

"You-- you bastard!" Ryuen yelled.

Ayanokouji didn't reply, instead he turned away and asked the voice. "What's your plan here?"

"Hm? Oh right, what I came here for. I guess I've had enough fun for now, so I'll explain." the voice replied, getting everyone's attention immediately.

"So the reason why I am here today, and why you are here

today in this theater, is because I want to have you watch and react to your life!" the voice explained.

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"Huh?" the students were naturally confused, they didn't know what the voice was talking about.

"What? You don't get it? Man, you guys are dumber than I thought," the voice commented.

"Anyway, I mean that you guys, using the big ass screen in front of all of you, will be watching an anime about your life here in this school," they explained further, confusing the students even more.

"A-An anime?! About us?!" Sotomura, class D's resident Otaku, was the first one to react.

"Righto."

"What the fuck? An anime? You've gotta be kidding me. That's lame, I'm outta here," Ryuen stood up and started walking towards the door.

"Oh? What, Ryuen Kakeru, are you scared to see how much better Ayanokouji Kiyotaka is than you?" the voice said, in an attempt to rile Ryuen up to stay.

"Yeah, so what? This guy just dodged everything I threw at him without even trying. It's clear I ain't beating him head on," he replied without so much as batting an eye.

"I guess that makes sense, but isn't that all the more reason to stay? After all, you might learn his weakness or something," the voice proposed, which did the job of catching Ryuen's attention.

"Are you saying I can find out his weakness by watching this anime or whatever?" Ryuen asked.

"Of course, like I said earlier, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka is the main character after all!" the voice dropped a bombshell that the audience missed the first time around, rendering them shocked for the nth time today.

"Ayanokouji-kun is--?!" Ichinose couldn't help but exclaim.

"I see, that certainly makes sense," Sakayanagi commented.

"You knew about him before, Sakayanagi?" Kamuro asked, only to get nothing but a "Fufufu,".

"Heh. Alright then, you've convinced me." Ryuen smirked as he made his way back to his seat. "This better not be boring." he sat and made himself comfortable once again.

"Of course, not, even I would hate that, you know." the voice laughed.

"Anyways, we've wasted enough time, I'm sure the reader is getting bored now, so take a seat for now and save your questions later, and let's begin, shall we?"

As the students and teachers took their respective seats, they thought about what they're about to watch.

"Finally, I'll be able to know about his past."

"Alright, then, let's see what's the deal about this Ayanokouji fucker is."

"I already thought of Ayanokouji-kun as interesting but..."

"Well then, Ayanokouji-kun, let me see what kind of interesting school life you'll lead in this this school, fufufu."

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Hey, y'all just writing this to answer some questions all of you might be having. I will be following the anime but will cover the entirety of first year! Also in case you didn't read the description, I will not be doing full episodes/chapters, I will be doing specific moments only, but the story will progress as if they have watch the episodes/chapters that came before, and yeah, that's it, hope you enjoy! ^^

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Date Released: 3/31/2022
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Chapter 1: The Bus Scene

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***"Are human beings truly equal?"* as soon as the screen lit up, the students were met by the beautiful scenery of the pink and delicate cherry blossoms dancing with the winds, accompanied by Ayanokouji's voice.**

"Wow, it really is Ayanokouji, sounds exactly like him and everything," Ike commented.

"It certainly does feel surreal to hear his voice coming from the big screen, huh?" Hirata chuckled.

"It is thrilling, isn't it, Kushida-chan?" Class D's Wang Mei-Yu, said excitedly to her classmate, who seemed out of it for some reason.

"Hm? A-Ah, yeah, it is!"

"Um, I'm not sure I'm thrilled about having my thoughts all laid out in the open like this," Ayanokouji raised his hand.

"Oh yeah? Well, I'll consider changing it if everyone agrees with you," the voice replied in playful manner. "So? What does everyone have to say?"

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"Well, I, for one, certainly wishes to see and hear all of his thoughts," Horikita stares at Ayanokouji, while the rest nods in agreement.

"Welp, there you have it. Got anymore complaints, Ayanokouji

Kiyotaka?"

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Ayanokouji stares back at Horikita before answering: "Guess not."

"Good, then let's continue."

"Nowadays, people never shut up about the need for equality. A great man once said: 'Heaven does not create one person above or below another,' but the quote doesn't end there."

"Wow, is this the kind of stuff you think about, Ayanokouji-kun?" Ichinose asked.

"Uh, more or less, I guess."

"Reallyyyy?" Ichinose said in a way that made it sound like she was mentally taking notes.

The scene then cuts into the inside of a bus, where some familiar faces could be seen.

"Hey, look, it's Kushida-chan!" Ike exclaimed as he pointed at the screen. In response, Kushida chuckled in embarassment.

At the same time, some of the students got excited as well, seeing themselves on the big screen.

***"It actually says we're equal at birth, but then gaps appear. That the differences are the result of one's academic efforts, or lack thereof,"* Ayanokouji countinued monologuing as an old lady slowly walked up to view.**

"Man, I already knew Ayanokouji's a boring guy, but I didn't think even his thoughts would be this boring," yawned Yamauchi, earning noises of agreement from the others.

"Really? I don't think it's boring at all," replied Hirata.

"Exactly, you guys are just too dumb to understand," said Yukimura, pushing up his glasses, and also earning noises of agreement.

"H-Huh?! S-Shut up! I totally understand what he's talkin--" Yamauchi panicked, but was interrupted before he could finish his sentence.

"Shut the fuck up, will you? I'm trying to watch here," it was Ryuen.

"Hey, what'd you say, you asshole?!" Sudou, not one to let his friends be insulted, stood up, ready to throw down. In response, Ryuen simply scoffed, as if Sudou wasn't even a match for him.

"Sudou, stop it," Chabashira-sensei steps in and intensely glared at Sudou, in an attempt to intimidate him into sitting back down, which worked.

***"At any rate, humans are capable of thinking for themselves. 'Equality' may be a false concept, but our inequality remains a difficult thing to accept,"* as he said this, the camera zoomed in on Ayanokouji's face.**

Instantly, some female students was heard swooning at this sight.

"Hey, hey, what's going on here? Do you mean to tell me Ayanokouji's been popular with the girls all along?" Ike stood up and looked around, his face filled with confusion, as did Sudou's and Yamauchi's.

"Hm? You don't think so? I mean, Ayanokouji-kun *is* pretty handsome, right?" Ichinose looked to the girls for confirmation, which they did by nodding.

"Exactly, there's a reason why he's ranked fifth in the hot guy rankings, after all!" out of nowhere, Class B's Hoshinomiya-sensei joined the conversation with a surprising amount of excitement, her statement earning the shock of both the girls and boys.

"Hey, seriously? That's a thing?" the boys said.

"Sensei?! How do you even know this? And why would you reveal it to the boys?!" the girls protested.

"Ah, whoops, teehee!" Hoshinomiya said while doing the pose.

Meanwhile, Horikita speaks up, after staring at Ayanokouji's face. "You don't seem surprised. Did you already know about this 'hot guy rankings'?" she asked.

"...Kushida told me before. I thought it was a lie though," replied Ayanokouji.

"Excuse me, could you give up your seat?" a girl's voice caught the attention of Ayanokouji. He looked at the direction of where it came from and saw a girl standing in front of a guy, both of them wearing the same uniform as him.

"Ah, now I remember, this is right before we arrived for the entrance ceremony," said Kushida, with a visible uncomfortableness on her face, which didn't went unnoticed.

"Huh? What, did something happen here, Kushida-san?" Kei, just two seats to the right, asked.

"Oh, uh, you'll see."

"That's a priority seat. I think you should let this elderly lady sit there," said the girl.

"My, my pretty girl," the guy spoke. "While it may be a priority seat, there is no law requiring me to relinquish it," the boy replied with a very confident tone.

"You want me to give up my seat, because I am young? Nonsense, pure and simple," he continued.

"Ugh, of course it's him. I see now," said Kei, with audible annoyance in her voice.

"What ever do you mean by that, lady?" replied Koenji, not even looking at her.

"Huh? What I mea--"

"Oh! How beautiful!" Koenji suddenly yelled, interrupting Kei. It seems as though he just now saw himself on the big screen, even though he was shown earlier.

"Tch." said Kei.

"Just let him be." Hirata chuckled.

"Even if I'm young, standing consumes much more stamina than sitting. Why should I do something so detrimental with no benefit to myself?"

"I think you'd be contributing to society. And this lady seems to be having trouble staying upright."

"I have no interest in contributing to society, besides... what about those seating in the other seats."

"The difference between priority seats and others seems rather trivial to me," the boy continued on dishing out arguments.

"Tch, how rude." a girl from Class B commented earning some nods of agreement, mostly from Class D.

"Oh, but he has a point though? Are you just going to ignore everyone else who also refuses to give up their seats?" said Sakayanagi, also earning nods of agreements, this time, mostly from Class A.

"Well, no, but that's different!" this time, Sudou spoke up.

"Oh yeah, and how is it different?" Hashimoto smirked, knowing Sudou wasn't smart enough to fire back, and sure enough...

"W-Well..." Sudou didn't know what to say back..

Seeing this, the old lady spoke up. "R-Really, I'm fine, but thank you," she said, but Kushida wasn't willing to give up yet, once again, she looked around and asked: "Excuse me! Would any of you be willing to give up your seat?"

"What about you, Ayanokouji, are you not going to give up your seat?" asked Hirata, turning all attention towards the main protagonist.

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"Well..."

But nobody seemed willing. The camera then, once again, focuses on Ayanokouji, who turns away to look at the lady quietly reading a book on the seat across him.

"Ah, so is this how you two first met? We were sure you already knew each other from way back then, but..." said Satou, with some others nodding along.

"Hm? No, this is the first time I ever saw Horikita," answered Ayanokouji.

"R-Really?!" suddenly, Sakura raised her voice, surprising everyone.

"Yeah."

"A-Ah... okay... s-sorry." Sakura, seeing everyone's attention on her, began to shrink in self-consciousness, red as a strawberry.

"Oh ho? Sakura-san... do you, per chance, lik--" seeing Sakura's weird reaction, the girl two seats in front of her, Haruka, was about to asked something.

"H-H-H-Huh?! N-N-No, I don't! N-N-Not at all!" Sakura frantically tries to deny what Haruka was trying to ask, but considering the audience simply laughed her claim off, it's safe to say most people didn't believe her.

Most people, except one, that one being Ayanokouji, who was a little hurt after seeing a girl so vehemently deny her liking him.

It was then when somebody finally raised their hand and gave up their seat for the old lady.

"Finally, I thought no one was going to help the old lady," Hirata breathed a sigh of relief.

"Sorry, Hirata," said Ayanokouji, apologizing for not helping the old lady.

"It's fine, as long as you promise to never do it again," smiled Hirata, to which Ayanokoji nods.

After this, a little time passed and finally, Ayanokouji had arrived at his destination. *"So this is my new school?"* he thought to himself.

"Tokyo Metropolitan Advanced Nurturing High School. A school established by the government to nurture the young people who will support the country in the future."

"It boasts a 100% employment and college entry rate, it spares no effort in pursuing the nation's desired future."

Hearing this every class except Class A, became dejected.

"B-Boy, the school really did got us there, huh?" Ike, dejected as he was, still tried his best to uplift the spirits of his classmates, but it didn't work.

"C-Come on, it's not like we're screwed you know, we can still reach Class A if we try." Ike continued, this time it worked.

"Yeah, no, you're right! We won't give up! We'll reach Class A and reap the rewards we came here for!" most of Class D cheered.

"Oh ho? Aren't you defects getting to excited?" Ryuen smirked.

"What'd you say?!" Sudou once again stood up, but both of them stopped when they heard laughing. They looked around and saw that it came from Class A.

"Do you hear that, Katsuragi-san, the bottom-tier trash are arguing

about who'll graduate in Class A! Isn't that hilarious?!" said Yahiko, laughing along with many others.

"Stop it, Yahiko. It's not as though their chances are zero," Katsuragi promptly stopped those who were laughing.

"Do you really think that, Katsuragi-san? Cause if so... fufufu," mocked Sakayanagi with the biggest smug grin on her face.

"What are you implying?" Katsuragi shot a fierce glare at the petite lady.

"Whatever are you talking about?" said Sakayanagi, not losing her smug grin in the slightest.

"Hold on a sec," Ayanokouji's monologue was once again cut short a girl, this time, it was the black-haired girl silently reading on the bus.

"You were looking at me on the bus. Why?" she asked.

"Oh, sorry. It was because, you, like me, didn't seem interested in giving up your seat. So you don't like to get involved in that kind of stuff either, huh?"

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"Don't assume I'm like you. I held to my seat as a matter of conviction."

"Uh, doesn't that make you even worse?"

A few people laughed at this exchange, while Horikita simply stares at Ayanokouji, who quickly notices.

"What? Are you hurt by what I said?" asked Ayanokouji, but Horikita didn't reply.

"If you have no business with me, fine," the girl immediately turns and walks away without even waiting for a reply.

Seeing this, Ayanakouji continues on his way.

That was when the screen went black. Immediately, the students started talking about what they had just seen on the screen.

"What an episode, huh?" Ichinose chuckled.

"Yeah, it was definitely... interesting," replied Kanzaki, staring at Ayanokouji. "But that didn't really--"

"What the fuck, that's it? We barely found out anything about that fucker," Ryuen said what was on Kanzaki and many other's minds.

"As much as it pains me to agree with him, that's exactly what I was thinking," added Horikita.

"Woah, now, how 'bout being a little more patient? Don't worry, I'll be showing you everything from here, to the end of your guys' first year," the voice said, shocking everyone.

"Y-you mean, we'll be seeing our future?!" said Yukimura, clearly shaken up.

"But, wouldn't that cause problems?" Kaneda from Class C backed him up.

"No worries, you'll be forgetting everything you see here when were done," the voice explained, this time, taking some people off guard, like Horikita and Ryuen, for example.

"Huh? Hey! Fuck you mean we'll be forgetting?" Ryuen stood up.

"Exactly what it sounds like, you won't remember any of this."

"But then, that means..."

"You won't be able to find out about Ayanokouji Kiyotaka's past? Is that it, Horikita Suzune?" said the voice, to which Horikita did nothing but scowl.

"Well of course you won't! That'd be unfair to Ayanokouji Kiyotaka, after all."

"Then, why are you doing this?"

"Hmm... why, huh? I mean... why not?" the voice gave the most unexpected answer. All this time, Horikita and many others thought the voice was doing this to spite Ayanokouji, who didn't want to reveal his abilities.

"Tch, fuck it. Now I'm seriously outta here," Ryuen, once again, started walking towards the exit.

"Ryuen-san, wait!" Ishizaki, to Class C's surprise, stopped Ryuen.

"What?" said Ryuen in a very harsh tone.

"I think we should stay..."

"Oh? And why do you think that?"

"B-Because... because you lost to him! I think we should still try and get every information about him as we can."

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"Are you deaf? He just said we'll forget about it," Ryuen said, confused more than anything.

"B-But still!"

"Now, now, why don't you listen to your little subordinate, Ryuen Kakeru? Besides, it's not like I'll just let you leave, y'know?" the voice said in an even harsher tone than Ryuen.

Seeing the situation, Ryuen scoffed and once again got back to his seat.

"Good. Then let's start the next episode, shall we?"

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Chapter 2: Ayanokouji vs Manabu

Reads: 5997 | Votes: 136 | Comments: 50

When he got home from school, Ayanokouji immediately laid on his bed, before even changing. He thought about what happened earlier, the study session that was abruptly stopped because of Horikita's harshness.

"Yeah, it makes sense to be tired after that terrible situation," commented Haruka with a frown as she stared at Horikita, which didn't go unnoticed.

"What? I already told you, I will not apologize, it made perfect sense for me to think that at that time," said Horikita.

"But, still..." said Kushida.

"It's fine, Kushida. That's just how Horikita is, besides, she did still ended up helpin' me," one of the victims, Sudou, said. The rest didn't know what he was talking about, but they accepted it and dropped the subject.

After a bit of silence, Ayanokouji spoke out loud to himself: "Maybe I'll go buy something," and so, that's what he did.

He got out of his and walked towards the nearest vending machine, just outside the dorms. Once there, he overheard something he didn't expect.

"Suzune, I didn't expect you to follow me here," an unknown but familiar male voice, coming out of the alley just next to the vending machine.

"Ah," it was this exact moment when the two, Ayanokouji and Horikita, remembered what was about to happen.

"Horikita," Ayanokouji turned towards her, and saw the look of shame and uneasiness on her face. It took a while, but Horikita noticed Ayanokouji's glance.

She took a deep breath and replied, "I'm fine. Don't worry about me," there was barely anymore hint of uneasiness in her voice.

Of course, even if Horikita wasn't fine with it, Ayanokouji wouldn't have done anything, even if he could. After all, this might lead to Horikita developing and becoming a better person.

Ayanokouji took a peek around the corner and waited.

"Brother... I'm not the failure I was back then. I came her to catch up with you," said Horikita in a very uncharacteristically delicate voice.

"Wait a minute, Horikita-san?!" the first one to speak was Kushida, with the others immediately following up, all of them confused, and concerned.

"Horikita... and who? Her brother?"

"Horikita has a brother? In this school?" asked Yamauchi out loud.

"Huh? You seriously didn't realize? Are you dumb?" said Kei.

"Realize? Realize what?" Sudou joined in.

"Um... how about we just watch? I'm sure we'll find out soon." Hiyori, from Class C, interjected.

"Catch up? You still haven't even realized your own shortcomings. You were a fool to choose this school," said Horikita's brother in a harsh tone as he pushed up his glasses.

"I'll reach Class A soon! When I do--"

"Impossible."

"I will... make it there."

No one even commented on Horikita's unusual behavior, they were too focused on the identity of her brother and the tensed situation.

"What an unreasonable sister you are," just then, the face of Horikita's brother was finally revealed and it was...

"The student council president?"

"The President?!?!" a number of people exclaimed, very surprised. At the same time, some of smarter students couldn't help but facepalm.

"What the hell? I know you're an idiot, but seriously? You did realize they have the same surname, right?" said Ibuki, talking to her classmate Ishizaki, who was one of the surprised ones, with visible disappointment.

"W-What? I barely know the surnames of our classmates, how do you expect me to remember hers?" Ishizaki retorted, earning the laugh of a few students.

"Uh... can you all, like, stop laughing? This is too tense of a situation for us to be reacting like this, y'know?" Kei interjected, with a frown.

Before Horikita could say anymore, her brother grabbed her by the wrist and pushed her against the wall.

"Woah, woah, woah, what the hell?!" almost everyone had the same reaction, even the teachers. They didn't expect for the student council president, of all people, to be violent like this.

"My little sister, assigned to Class D, and I'm the one who bears the shame of it. Leave this school right now."

"Brother... I..." Horikita was barely able to moan out, she was clearly in a lot of pain.

"You have neither the right nor the ability to aim for something higher," said the brother, his tone somehow getting even harsher.

"You must learn..." the president visible wound his arm back, seemingly about to strike her little sister. Seeing this, the sister did nothing but close her eyes, and brace herself.

"Hey, Ayanokouji! You're not about to sit still and watch this happen are you?!" Sudou stood up and exclaimed, apparently unable to take seeing Horikita like this anymore.

"Sudou-kun, keep watching," Horikita interjected.

But just before the hit landed, Ayanokouji swoops in and pulled the president's arm back. Taking the Horikita siblings by complete surprise.

A loud 'woah!' came out of everyone's mouths. Seeing this, some people got ready to take in everything they're about to see, it would be valuable to see just how strong he is in fights, after all.

"A-Ayanokouji?!"

"You were really going to drive that in, weren't you? Let her go."

"So... so badass!!!" the professor, that is, Sotomura, was the first one to fanboy, some of the girls quickly followed after.

"S-Shut up, already!" Ike, suddenly shouted out, taking everyone by surprised.

"Ah! I-I mean... we're watching, y-y'know?" he tried to make it sound like he didn't like being disturbed, but everyone knew he was just jealous of Ayanokouji's sudden popularity.

"Stop it, Ayanokouji-kun," said Horikita softly, which took Ayanokouji off guard.

"Horikita-san..." her classmates, said to themselves, concerned.

"I've never heard her speak that way..." Ayanokouji slowly let go of the brother's arm, but when he did, the student council president suddenly swung at Ayanokouji.

Thankfully, he was able to dodge it by bending his back and going under it, but before he can even fully recover, the president sent another blow, this time a kick straight to the face.

But, to both of the Horikita's surprise, that was dodged too. "Close call," said Ayanokouji.

Another chorus of 'woah!' echoed throughout the theater once again, only this time, it was a lot louder.

"E-Ehh?! I didn't realize Ayanokouji-kun was that good at fighting!" exclaimed Ichinose.

"M-Maybe the President i-is just bad at fighting, o-or something." suggested Ike, but he instantly regretted it when he was stared daggers by many people.

"W-What? You guys are g-ganging up on me now? D-Did you all really fall that hard for Ayanokouji?!"

"Huh? You retarded, or what? Does the President's movement here look like an amateur's to you?" said Ryuen.

"H-H-Huh?!"

"Ryuen-kun, stop it," Horikita stepped up.

"Heh."

"And you, Ike-kun, how do you think my brother made it to the top of this school?" Horikita shot a glare even worse than Ryuen's.

"S-S-S-S-Sorry!"

Seeing this, the president quickly got into a fighting stance before throwing another punch towards Ayanokouji, but this time, it was easily parried. Making the president back down.

"You move well. Do you practice something?" asked the president, clearly interested in his enemy.

"Piano and calligraphy," without missing a beat, Ayanokouji spit out an answer.

"...Huh?" everyone was taken aback.

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"Whaaaaaat?!" chaos erupted.

"You mean to say all I need to practice is piano and calligraphy to be that good at fighting?!" exclaimed Sotomura.

"O-Of course not, you dumbass!" replied Ike, "R-Right?" he looked around for confirmation.

"Are you really that dumb? Of course not!" yelled Shinohara.

"Well, you never know, y'know!"

"Goodness, why am I with these people." Horikita muttered under her breath.

"Ah, that's right. I heard that there was a student who got 50s in every subject on his entrance exam," the president said as he fixed his tie.

"You got a 50 at the last exam too. 50, exactly half of 100, was that intentional?"

"Coincidences can be freaky."

Everyone suddenly got quiet in response to this.

"...Is that true, Ayanokouji-kun?" asked Ichinose.

"If you mean my scores, yeah, the President is telling the truth, but It really is just coincidence." answered Ayanokouji.

"...I see, I believe you."

"W-Wait a minute, Ichinose-san, are you sure you should believe him that easily? No matter how look at it, he's clearly suspicious." Kanzaki interjected, earning nods of agreement from a lot of people.

"Well, even if we don't believe him, it's not like there's any way to confirm that it isn't coincidence, right?"

"...I guess not."

"You're a unique man, I see. Suzune," he turned his attention on his speechless sister. "I'm genuinely surprised to see you've made a friend."

"He's not... a friend. He's just a classmate."

"As usual, you've mistaken isolation for independence, Suzune," the brother began to walk away.

"If you want to ascend to a higher class, struggle with every ounce of strength you have," with that as his last words, he left.

"Tch, what an ass. Why the hell is someone like him the student council president?" commented Sudou.

The scene then cut to Horikita and Ayanokouji right beside the vending machine, enjoying a drink.

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"I guess you caught me at an awkward time," Suzune broke the silence.

"Actually, I was glad to see what a normal girl you could b--" before he could finish his sentence he saw Horikita staring daggers into him.

"I didn't say anything."

A few students laughed at this exchange. As they did, Ayanokouji looked around, then, he saw Kushida, laughing along with the others.

It was then when he realized that their secret will probably be exposed. It wasn't like he cared, he was just curious as to how she'll react. It was basically guaranteed that she'll be shunned by the Class D and most likely the rest of the school as well.

Shortly after, Kushida noticed his gaze. In response, she smiles at him, as if impending doom wasn't quickly approaching her.

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"You're incredible."

"Yeah, I used to do piano and tea ceremony."

"You said it was calligraphy."

"Yeah, that too."

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"Did you really rig your scores on the entrance exam?"

"It was a coincidence, like I said.

"I don't understand you at all."

"That's exactly how we're feeling right now, right?" said Ike, in an attempt to get back on the audience's good side again, but it was in vain, as his earlier actions had not yet been forgotten.

"Are you really finished with the study group?" Ayanokouji,

not wanting the conversation to go that way, changed the topic.

"Yes. I've determined those persistent failures to be a waste of my time," said Horikita with absolutely no hesitation. "It doesn't benefit me in any way."

Sudou and the others held their head down in shame.

"They'll be expelled."

"I don't care what happens to anyone else," Horikita stood up. "To the contrary, those who remain will be the better for it. Their loss will make it easier for our class to rise. I couldn't ask for more."

"Are you sure that's not a flawed way of thinking?" said Ayanokouji, somewhat taking Horikita by surprise.

"Your shortcoming is that you assume others will hold you back, and put them at a distance from the start."

"Couldn't that philosophy, looking down on others, be what got you thrown into Class D in the first place?"

"Hah, well what'd you know, for someone who's socially inept, you sure know how to put people in their place." commented Hashimoto, earning a few laughs from Class A.

"I..." faced with the absolutely sound logic coming from Ayanokouji, Horikita couldn't say anything.

The screen then faded out into black, before fading back in to show the students going about with their business.

"And so, with everyone looking hopeless, the day arrived."

"We of Class D. Every single student in Class D, in every subject... achieved high scores."

"Hm?" Ike looked confused for a minute, but when he saw that his classmates were giving him the 'seriously?' looks, he suddenly

remembered.

"Ah, right, last year's test papers, I almost forgot about that," Ike scratched the back of his head and laughed sheepishly.

"Seriously, if you had already forgotten about that, there's seriously something with your brain," said Shinohara.

"Huh? Give me a break will you, my brain's still reeling from all this Ayanokouji stuff, y'know!"

"Yeah, that's fair, isn't it?" Hirata interjected.

"It is! I mean, who would've ever thought Ayanokouji-dono was this much of a badass?" said Sotomura.

"So true!" some girls from Class B said simultaneously.

"Whatever, he's still a defect from Class D!" Yahiko said a, what he would soon find out to be, very unpopular opinion.

"Huh?! Shut up Yahiko, you couldn't even do half the things he could!" a group of fangirls and Sotomura yelled back.

"W-What'd you say?!"

"Stop it, Yahiko. Don't you feel ashamed in saying that?" Katsuragi scolded.

"A-Ah, yes, Katsuragi-san, sorry."

"Well, okay then, is there any other comment or questions? Cause if not, then let's start the next episode, shall we?"

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Words: 2034

Date Released: 4/3/2022
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Chapter 3: Ayanokouji and Kushida's Secret

Reads: 5294 | Votes: 129 | Comments: 27

The words 'Before The Test' flashed on the screen before showing Ayanokouji and Kushida together at the school cafeteria.

"Hm? What's this? Ayanokouji and Kushida-chan together? Hmmmm?" asked Ike, with a clear hint of aggression and jealousy in his voice.

"Ayanokouji, I think this is the first time you've invited me somewhere!" Kushida exclaimed, very excited. "You must have a reason, right?"

"Can you promise you won't breathe a word of this to anyone?" asked Ayanokoji.

Seeing this, most students started wondering what the two was about to do.

"Sure!" smiled Kushida.

The camera then showed Ayanokouji and Kushida standing and peeking over a corner, presumably waiting for someone to show up at the cafeteria line.

After a while, the two of them began to move. "Let's go," said Ayanokouji.

"Excuse me. You're an upperclassman, right?" the two took a seat with a lone student. "I'm Ayanokouji, from Class 1-D. You're in D, too, right?"

"Yeah..." the upperclassman reluctantly answered.

"Wait a minute... an upperclassman? Don't tell me..." Yukimura realized something. Seeing his reaction, most of Class D and also the smarter ones from the other classes also realized what was happening.

"Ah, I see. I guess we should've known, huh?" Hirata chuckled.

"Huh? What? What's going on?" meanwhile, Ike, Sudou, Yamauchi , and some others were still clueless.

"The free stuff must taste pretty bad, huh?" commented Ayanokouji.

"What do you want?"

"I want to consult to you about something. Of course, I'll make it worth your while."

"Consult?" the senior had an obvious look of skepticism.

"Do you have the questions from your first midterm two years ago?" asked Ayanokouji, surprising both Kushida and the senior.

"I want you to give them to me."

The sound of realization and acknowledgement came out from the mouths of the students.

"Huh? You mean to tell me Ayanokouji was behind this as well?" said Ike, looking dejected.

"What, got a problem with that?" Satou asked. "Or are you just jealous you'll never be as smart and strong as Ayanokouji-kun?"

"H-Huh?! Shut up! What, you probably never even knew he existed before this, why are you crushing on him now, all of a sudden?" Ike retorted.

"C-C-Crushing on him?!" Satou's face became bright red, and when she glanced at Ayanokouji, who was also looking at her, it became even redder.

"S-Shut up!" she muttered before sitting back down.

"Why are you coming to me about this?" asked the senior.

"Why else? Those low in points would be more likely to make a trade. And I saw you eating that foul-looking wild vegetable lunch set..."

To this, there were noises of agreement from the smarter ones in each class, as if saying: *"Makes sense."*

The senior looked down and thought for a bit.

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"How much will you pay?" he asked.

"Ten thousand points. That's my upper limit," Ayanokouji, without missing a beat, answered.

"There's risk in this for me, too. I'd need thirty thousand points, at the very least."

"I'm afraid that's not possible."

"No deal, then."

"Please wait a minute!" Kushida stepped in, "A friend of ours might be expelled! Please!" she looked at the senior with her irresistible puppy eyes and her large breast, which easily charmed him.

The sight easily charmed the audience as well, as immediately, about half of them had red cheeks. Some enjoyed in more than others.

"E-Eh?! Kushida-chan, d-don't tell me you did that on purpose!"

Ichinose, who apparently wasn't good with sexy stuff and therefore was redder than anyone else, asked her friend.

"H-Huh?! O-Of course not! I was too concerned with the expulsion on my classmates for that, you know!" Kushida pouted, earning laughs from the girls in Class D and B.

Seeing this, Ayanokouji began to pressure the senior. "Ten thousand," he reminded him of the price.

"Tch, so that's why he brought her with him," Kei said with a sour expression on her face.

Hearing her, Ayanokouji thought: *"She's... sharper than I thought."*

"Twenty-five thousand."

"Ten thousand."

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"Twenty thousand."

"The offer is ten thousand."

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"Fifteen thousand. I can't possibly go any lower," It didn't seem like the senior would go any lower, and so:

"Very well, it's a deal. In exchange, please include your quizzes

from the first term."

"Okay."

"Thank you so much!" seeing their plan succeed, she smiled brightly.

"Wow, so that's how Kushida-san got the test scores, guess I was worried for nothing," Shinohara breathed a sigh of relief.

"Hm? Concerned, what do you mean?" asked Kushida, clueless as to what her classmate's talking about.

"O-Oh, uh, nothing! Don't worry about it," Shinohara tried to force a smile, but it was obvious even for someone like Ike, for example. Fortunately for her, no one asked any more questions.

It then cuts to Ayanokouji and Kushida sitting on a bench, side-by-side, waiting for the papers.

"But do you think it'll be okay?" asked Kushida, clearly worried.

"Don't worry, it's within school rules."

"I suppose so... but still, using old questions feel like cheating to me."

"Not really, seeing his reaction confirmed to me that trading old questions between students is nothing unusual."

Some students glanced at the teacher to gauge the validity of Ayanokouji's statement, but, like the professionals they are, they gave away no answer.

"But they're still just old questions. They might not have anything to do with with this year's test."

"It may not contain the exact same questions, but I don't think they'll be entirely different."

"Really?"

"No need to worry. Think of it as insurance against the expulsion of Sudo," said Ayanokouji. Soon after, his phone rang, the test papers had arrived.

"Looks like I've made trouble for you, huh, Ayanokouji? Sorry 'bout that." an unexpected apology came from Sudou, surprising the crowd.

When he noticed this, Sudou asked: "Huh? What? Did I say somethin' wrong?"

"Don't mention it, Sudou, it's only natural to help a friend, right?" responded Ayanokouji.

"He's right, Ken! Don't worry about it!" Ike joined in, with Yamauchi making noises of agreement in the background.

"Yeah, than-- wait, did you just call me by first name?" asked Sudou, puzzled.

"Yeah? Why, you don't like it? It sounds way easier to say, though," answered Ike. "Besides we're friends, aren't we?" he held out his hands.

"Yeah, you're right, Kanji!" Sudou said, grabbing Ike's hand and laughing.

"Hey, now, don't forget about me!" Yamauchi interjected, also grabbing the two's hands and laughing, and just like that, a strong three-way bromance was formed.

"Gross..." was the reaction of most guys and girls around the theater.

Meanwhile, Ayanokouji, the subject of the Sudou's apology just minutes ago, was just watching, silently trying to muster up the courage to join the three and be part of their 'bromance'.

But in the end, he couldn't, and worse, when she noticed it, Horikita laughed at him, further adding insult to the injury.

"They're here. Let's look at the quiz itself first," he brought out

his quiz papers and began comparing them.

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"It's the same. Right down to the letter," confirmed Ayanokouji.

"Wow! What about the midterm, then?" asked Kushida excitedly.

"It's likely to have the same questions."

"So this is how you guys got past the midterms," Yahiko, out of nowhere, condescendingly said.

"I did think it was strange when I saw that you defects didn't have anyone get expelled, so you resorted to this kind of method, huh?" he continued.

However, Class D couldn't really shoot back, seeing that what he was saying had some truth, they would've probably had at least one expulsion if not for Ayanokouji.

"Yahiko," said Katsuragi, probably tired of his subordinate misbehaving. Hearing him, Yahiko immediately quiet down. A small laugh coming from Hashimoto was heard but was ultimately ignored.

"Let's show it to everyone, not just Sudou and the others!" suggested Kushida.

"No, we won't show it to them yet," said Ayanokouji, surprising his classmate.

"Why not?"

"Say we reveal it to them the day before the test, what do you think our classmates would do?"

"Ah! So It was also you're fault, Ayanokouji!" Sudou stood up and pointed, taking everyone aback.

"If you had just given it to us a day earlier, I wouldn't have passed out before I could study the Englis--!" Sudou yelled and yelled but before he could finish, he was interrupted.

"Hey, now, that's spoilers, you know? That's coming up later, so shut the hell up!" the voice spoke for the first time while the show was still going, so that relayed just how important this is for him.

Seeing this, Sudou slowly sat back down.

To this question, Kushida paused to think, before coming to the conclusion: "They'll work desperately to memorize the questions!"

"Precisely," nodded Ayanokouji.

"Ayanokouji, are you actually sharper than you let on?" asked Kushida.

"I'm just cunning, that's all," Ayanokouji answered immediately. Kushida stayed silent, but didn't seem to believe him.

The audience chuckle at Ayanokouji's, what they now to be an obvious, lie.

After a brief silence, Ayanokouji, once again, spoke up.

"Hey, I'd like you to do me a favor," he said. "Could you tell them you're the one who got them the questions?"

"Sure... but are you okay with that?"

"I don't want to stand out unnecessarily, and I think our classmates trust you more." explained Ayanokouji.

"Okay, I get us trusting Kushida more, but why do you not like standing out, Ayanokouji?" as soon as the opportunity showed itself, Kei immediately asked the questions that's been on everyone's minds.

There was a brief silence as Ayanokouji thought about his answer.

He thought about whether he should just reveal his past with The White Room now, since it'll most likely be revealed later anyway.

"I just want to experience being a normal student for once, since I never had the chance to do so when I was a child," in the end, he decided to simply hint at The White Room, but not drop it's name.

"I... didn't have a normal childhood, you see."

Hearing this unexpectedly simple but sad answer, the audience made noises of pity, while some took mental notes. However, there was one person who was more surprised than the others, it was Kei.

Not knowing anything, she wondered whether Ayanokouji went through the same thing as her, which instantly bumped him a few places up among the people she acknowledged.

"Okay. If that's what you want."

"Thanks a lot."

"I guess this will be our little secret, then!" exclaimed Kushida, with a big, cheerful smile on her face.

"Kuuu..." seeing this, Ike felt an immense amount of jealousy towards Ayanokouji, but he tried his best and barely succeeded on keeping it to himself. Meanwhile, Satou, seated right beside him just looked at him in disappointment.

"Damn, so that Ayanokouji dude's not just physically strong, but he's also clever, huh?" commented Ishizaki. "He's just like you, Ryue--"

"Huh?" Ryuen shot an intense glare towards his subordinate.

"N-Nothing!"

"...Nah, you're right. I did think that fucker was just stupidly strong but also stupidly stupid at the same time, but I guess he wouldn't be a challenge if that was the case, huh?" Ryuen smirked. It was then when...

"Fufufu..." a small, delicate laughter was heard, and it came from Sakayanagi, who, up to now, had barely even been commenting or even paying attention.

"What, Sakayanagi? Got a problem?" said Ryuen.

"Oh, nothing, don't mind me, please," replied Sakayanagi, sounding like she knew something the rest didn't.

"Huh? Hey, are you fucking with me?" Ryuen said, standing up and getting ready to throw down, as did Ishizaki.

In response to this, both Kitou and Hashimoto stands in front of their leader, Sakayanagi, getting ready to defend her.

Throughout, all this, the smile on Sakayanagi's face never left and absolute confidence kept emanating from her figure, which just made Ryuen all the more angry.

"Hey!" this time, it was the leader of Class B, Ichinose, who stood up, getting between Class A and C.

"You guys *do* realize that there are teachers watching you right now, right?" she said.

"And a god." a Class B student interjected.

"Thank you! I thought you all forgot me, for a second there. We can't have that, can we?" the voice joined in.

"After all, if you guys get violent... I might just get violent too." said the voice, spewing out an ungodly amount of intimidating aura, enough to send shivers down most of the students.

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"So? What will it be? Are we getting violent?" the voice continued with a unsettlingly cheerful tone, specially after what he had just said.

"Tch." Ryuen, for who knows how many times now, sat back down.

"Okay! We still have the rest of the episode to go, so let's get back on track, shall we?"

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Words: 2024

Date Released: 4/4/2022
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Chapter 4: Saving Sudou

Reads: 4369 | Votes: 119 | Comments: 36

The words "Test Results Announcement Day" flashed on screen. It then cuts to Ayanokouji, who was silently looking at Kushida being showered with praise.

"So we'll finally see how Ken's expulsion got rescinded," commented Yamauchi.

"You think Ayanokouji's got somethin' to do with it?" asked Sudou.

"Probably. It would be surprising if he didn't, no?" answered Ike.

"You're right," replied Yamauchi, laughing.

"Kushida is well suited to the role," said Ayanokouji, talking to Horikita, who was also staring at Kushida and co.

"Not much of a compliment." replied Horikita.

It then cuts to Chabashira-sensei in front of the class. "To be honest, I'm impressed. I never thought you'd be able to get such high scores. I acknowledge your efforts," she said.

"However..." she continued, now walking towards the class' English scores, before drawing a red line on top of Sudou's name.

Sudou flinched after seeing the horror of him being almost expelled again. Soon after, laughs from the other classes started to be heard.

"Hey, hey, are you laughin' at me?!" yelled Sudou.

"Of course we are! I mean, even after having a literal cheat sheet, you still failed!" said Kondo from Class D. Hearing him, the laughter only got louder.

"H-Huh?! That's because I fell asleep before I could study it!" Sudou retorted.

"Sure, bud. We all know you would've failed regardless," said Hashimoto, fanning the flames of the laughter even further.

"You piece of--"

"Sudou-kun, calm down," Horikita interjected and quickly calmed her classmate down.

"You got a failing score, Sudou," Chabashira-sensei said, mercilessly. Meanwhile, Sudou and the rest were completely shocked and speechless.

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"A-Are you kidding me?! I failed?! How?!" yelled Sudou.

"The threshold for failure on this midterm test was 40. The score on the midterm test was 79.6, divided by two..." Chabashira-sensei wrote some simple math even a 1st-grader would understand.

"Since we round that up, you needed a score of 40 or higher to pass," and because Sudou's score was 39, there was no other way, he failed.

"Did you get all that, Sudou-kun? Or was that math too hard for you?" more teasing came from Class A's way, resulting in even more laughter.

This time, however, Sudou didn't make a noise, instead keeping his frustrations to himself.

"We only knew you for a short time, but I appreciate your

efforts. I'll issue your notice of expulsion after class," spoke Chabashira-sensei with no remorse in her tone.

Meanwhile, Sudou couldn't even believe it, "I'm gonna be... expelled?" he said with absolute shock on his face.

"Wait a minute! Isn't there any way to save him?" Hirata stood up.

"A failing score means you're finished."

"Isn't there anything we can do? We can't let Sudou be expelled..." this time, it was Kushida who stood up.

"Rules are rules, give it up," was the only answer Chabashira-sensei gave before dismissing everyone.

"Sudou, I'll be waiting in the staff office after classes," with that as her last words, she left the room, but not before glancing at Ayanokouji. Meanwhile, Horikita was also staring at Ayanokouji.

Perhaps because not all of the students were paying close attention, but only a few students caught Chabashira-sensei's actions and while they did find it weird, none of them did anything.

The teachers, however, didn't miss anything.

"Oh, what's this? Sae-chan, don't tell me you knew about Ayanokoji-kun even before all this?" asked Hoshinomiya-sensei.

After a brief sigh, Chabashira-sensei replied.

"Of course, I'm his teacher, after all."

"Eh? What do you mean 'of course'? You should've told me, then, you meanie!" complained Hoshinomiya-sensei.

"Don't you think so too, Mashima-kun?"

"Hm? No, not really. After all, Ayanokouji's hidden abilities is a class asset, I would've kept it secret as well." answered Class A's

teacher.

"Ehhh?! Fine then, I guess you're a meanie too, Mashima-kun!"

After a brief silence, Kushida spoke once again.

"Hey, are we just going to accept this? Sudou is going to be expelled," she looked around, but her classmates didn't seem to have any ideas either.

Suddenly, someone from the back stood up, it was...

"Ayanokouji?" called out Kushida.

"There it is! The hidden super-hero of Class D has finally begun to move!" exclaimed Sotomura, following his statement were squeals from various girls.

"Hey, hey, what the hell? How did The Professor become the leader of the fangirls?"

"Sorry, gotta hit the bathroom," or so he said, but both Kushida and Horikita didn't believe him at all.

Once Ayanokouji was out the room, he spotted Chabashira-sensei and chased after her. It turned out the she was going to the rooftop, to have a smoke.

"What is it?" said Chabashira-sensei when she noticed the student behind her.

"Class is about to start, you know."

"May I ask you a question, ma'am?" spoke Ayanokouji.

It was at this moment where the crowd once again focused to see what Ayanokouji was about to do.

"A question?"

"In Japan, right now, do you think society is equal?"

Noises of confusion was heard throughout the theater, but it soon

got quiet again.

"That's quite a question," Chabashira-sensei smirked.

"Is there any point in me answering that?"

"It's important, could you answer, please?"

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"From where I stand, I'd say... society is certainly not equal. Not a bit."

"I agree. The word 'equal' is a lie," said Ayanokouji.

"But we humans are thinking creatures."

"What's your point?" Chabashira-sensei put out her cigarette.

"The rules require at least the appearance of equal application."

The theater once again got noisy, although this time, it was from various student's realizations of Ayanokouji's actions.

"Oh?" the teacher, once again, smirked, knowing what's about to come. Right after, Ayanokouji brought out her phone, showing her his points.

"What's that for?" asked the teacher.

"Sell me one point to add to Sudo's English test score."

"Huh?! You can do that?!" exclaimed Ike, alongside him were students asking the same thing, equally bewildered by Ayanokouji's proposal.

"So... so, that's how I was saved? Not by Horikita arguing with the teachers?" asked Sudou with a hint of disappointment in his voice.

"Of course not," answered Horikita, not missing a beat.

"I see... buying a test point, huh? I didn't even think of that," Yahiko said to himself, his opinion of Ayanokouji quickly improving.

"I mean, it's probably because there was no possibility of anyone getting expelled in our class but still..." he kept muttering to himself, seriously pondering whether or not he would've come up with the same thing.

Chabashira-sensei burst out laughing after hearing Ayanokouji's request.

"You're an interesting one. You want me to sell you test points?"

"You told us we can buy anything using points on the first day of school. Rules must be applied equally, even on this midterm test."

"Ah, he's right, I didn't even catch that!" exclaimed Kei, with a few of her friends agreeing with her.

"We were too caught up on the points system to pay attention to Sensei's words weren't we?" Yosuke followed up with a chuckle.

"I see, your idea is indeed plausible."

"Then--"

"However, that doesn't mean you can afford it," the teacher smirked.

Hearing this, for some reason, some Class D students once again began to tense up, getting taken off guard by the sudden problem.

"How much, then?"

"Let me see... if you can give 100,000 points, right here and now, I'll sell it to you."

"Eh?! 100,000?!" some of the Class D students exclaimed at the

price of one test point.

To this, the other classes became confused, after all, 100,000 didn't seem that much to the classes who had a decent amount of class points, but to Class D who, until recently, had absolutely no points, 100,000 was a lot.

"Can Ayanokouji-kun even afford that?" asked Satou to no one in particular.

"Probably, or else Sudou wouldn't be here, right?" replied Kei.

Everyone looked to Ayanokouji for confirmation.

"Keep watching," he promptly answered, pointing at the screen.

"That's cruel, ma'am."

"That's part of the rules too."

Suddenly, the two heard a voice behind them.

"I'll pay too," they turned around and saw Horikita.

A mixture of 'woah' and 'ahh' came flowing out of the audience's mouths.

"Aha! I knew you would pull through for me, Horikita!" Sudou stood up, a big smile on his face.

To this, Horikita said and did nothing but make a noise of acknowledgement/agreement.

"We don't know what penalty might enacted on a class that loses students to expulsion. I've determined there may be considerable merit in keeping him around."

"Smart choice. Sudou, especially, would indubitably become an important asset, with his physique and all." commented Katsuragi earning nods of agreement from most students.

"Ha, and to think Suzune was convinced it was better for that

blockhead to drop out. How disappointing," said Ryuen.

Not liking his statement in the slightest, Sudou tried to speak up...

"Wh--"

...but he was beaten to the punch by Horikita.

"When did I give you permission to call me that?" she said with a fierce look and tone.

"Woah, scary," said Ryuen sarcastically, before standing up.

"Don't forget, Suzune, just because Ayanokouji sprung up out of nowhere, doesn't mean I'm letting you go scot-free for setting up my guys," he continued, his earlier sarcasm now replaced by a harsh and intimidating tone.

Hearing this, the three guys Ryuen was referring to flinched.

"Oh? And whatever do you mean by that?" Horikita, however, did not yield in the slightest.

Ryuen refrained from saying anything more, instead sitting back down while going, "Kukuku..."

"Horikita..."

"I knew you people would be interesting. Very well, I'll sell you a point for Sudou's test. You can let him know about this yourselves."

"You sure about this?" asked Ayanokouji.

"I agreed to sell it for 100,000 points. I don't have choice," said the teacher, as she lit another cigarette.

"In the history of this school, no Class D has ever advanced to a higher tier. Do you still intend to struggle for it?" she asked.

"That's... it'll definitely be hard, but I think we can do it, right everyone?" Hirata stood up and looked at his classmates, soon

enough, his determination seemed to give everyone hope as well.

"Hell yeah we can!" exclaimed Ike, immediately after, the rest of the class followed with the cheering as well.

Seeing this, Ryuen intervened.

"Hey, hey, you underestimating us or what? Are you fucking with me?" he said, with a face and tone intimidating enough to immediately shut down a few of the Class D students.

"Kukuku, how pathetic."

"I don't know how he feels, but I will ascend to a higher class," said Horikita, with absolute confidence in her tone of voice.

"And how do defectives like you, abandoned by the school, expect to aim for the top?"

"If I may be so bold, defective merchandise can often be fixed with the slightest of alterations. That is my feeling on the matter."

"Horikita-san..." Class D looked to the mentioned girl in mixture of awe and bewilderment.

After all, although she didn't explicitly say it, she basically said that she believed that Class D still had the potential to be strong and rise from their position, a statement very much uncharacteristic from her.

"I look forward to seeing it, then. As your teacher, I'll watch over you warmly," leaving that as her last words, she left.

"Ah... that was certainly interesting. We learned a lot about Horikita-san, didn't we?" said Hirata.

"Yeah, we sure did. Knowing her attitude, I never would've thought she'd say we're not completely hopeless," answered Kei, a few people nod to her statement.

"I was merely voicing my thoughts, don't let it flatter you too

much," said Horikita.

"H-Huh?! What do you mean 'flatter'?!" said Kei, flustered. To this, a few class D students laughed.

Amidst the laughter, though, Haruka noticed someone acting a little off.

"Kikyo-chan? Hello?" she said, snapping the girl back to reality.

"Huh? O-Oh, what is it, Hasebe-san?" Kushida tried her best to act natural, but she couldn't, especially now when most of the audience were focused on her.

"Are you okay? You've been quiet for a while now," said Haruka, concerned. The situation immediately peaked Ayanokouji's interest, he wanted to see how Kushida would act.

"A-Ah, really? Don't worry about me, I'm totally fine," she replied, this time getting better at hiding her nervousness, but still not able to completely mask it.

"Eh, are you sure, Kushida-chan?" this time it was Mii-chan who spoke.

"Uh, yeah, of course!"

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"That being said... can I... ask a question... privately?" asked Kushida, clearly talking to The Voice.

"Oh? What question could you possibly have for me, I wonder?" The Voice said playfully, but when Kushida didn't grant them the reaction they wanted, they decided to drop it.

"Booo, you're no fun, getting all serious on me," said The Voice as they simultaneously put up some kind of black wall surrounding

Kushida Kikyo.

"Eh?!" Kushida cried out in surprise. After adjusting for a second, she knocked on the wall to feel that it was indeed both completely solid and therefore was probably soundproof.

"So? Ask away."

"You're... not going to reveal my secret, are you?" she said with harsh look and tone.

The instant The Voice heard her question, they burst into laughter, which took Kushida aback.

"W-Why the hell would I not?" said The Voice through their uncontrollable laughter.

"Huh?! What the fuck do you mean 'why would you not'?!"

"Are you dumb? I'm saying there's no reason for me keep it secret, idiot."

"W-What did you say?!" Kushida couldn't believe it, it didn't seem like The Voice had any remorse at all.

"What? Was that really what you wanted to ask?" said The Voice, laughing even more.

"What, did you think I would just go 'yeah, sure' and not show it?" they said, practically out of breath from all the laughing.

"Is... is this really it? I thought I would be able to do a completely new start here in this school..." she thought about the life decisions she made to end up completely ruining her life once, and now twice.

"Bullshit! I'm not giving up here!" Kushida roared within herself before doing the last thing she could thought of... begging.

"Please, don't... don't do this!" she said, completely on her hands and knees. She felt pathetic, but there was no other way.

If it was someone from Class D, then she probably could've

somewhat convinced them by threatening to ruin the unity of the class, and even then, it probably wouldn't be that effective.

Seeing as the school year had just started and Kushida didn't have much in the way of secrets from Class D students, so this was the only thing she could do.

"Please, I'm begging you!"

Meanwhile, The Voice, after a few seconds of being taken aback by Kushida's shameless behavior, thought of a fun, light-hearted prank.

"P-Please... I just want to leave a good high school life, so please!" she yelled once again. However, it was then when she heard noises and murmurs.

"K-Kikyo-chan?!" Haruka yelled.

Before Kushida knew it, she was out in the open, bowing on her hands and knees, begging very loudly.

"H-Huh...? What...?" Kushida, complete and utterly shocked, slowly stood up, unsure whether or not this was really happening. Meanwhile, gossips and murmurs continue to spread.

"Save your stupidity and take a seat, Kushida Kikyo, you're not getting anything from me."

Hearing this, Mii-chan ran up to her to help her stand up...

"K-Kushida-chan, a-are you--"

...but she was pushed away and she fell on her rear.

"Y-You motherfucker!" Kushida yelled at The Voice, completely taking everyone by surprised. Just a millisecond later, she realized what she had just done.

If she hadn't already tanked her reputation, that definitely would've. Knowing this, Kushida gave up completely, and with empty, lifeless eyes, she took a seat.

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No one could process what had just happened, and before anyone could process what had just happened, The Voice spoke.

"Well then, now that that's out of the way, let's continue on with the episode, shall we?"

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Heya, just hopping in here to say that uploads will probably, definitely slow down from here, I just don't as motivated to write this story anymore, but I'll keep trying! Also I changed my mind and from the next chapter onwards, I'll be having them react to the LN instead of the anime! So yeah, that's it, bye.

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Chapter 5: Ayanokouji and Kushida's Second Secret

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Before the show could start, The Voice spoke.

"Ahem! Everyone, attention please!" they said.

Noises of confusion came out of everyone's mouths in response.

"From this point forwards, we'll be changing things up, just a tiny bit."

"Hm? What do you mean?" asked Horikita.

"I'm saying that the way the story will be told will now be changing."

"Change how, exactly?" this time, it was Sakayanagi.

"It's not like major plot points won't happen anymore, so don't worry about it, Sakayanagi Arisu. Just the way they happen will be altered."

"I see."

"Plus, this way would be better for everyone else as well," continued The Voice.

"In what way?" asked Katsuragi.

"In the way that you'll be hearing and seeing a lot more Ayanokouji Kiyotaka's thoughts, which I'm sure is delighting news for most of you, isn't that right, Kakeru Ryuen?"

Ryuen only smirked in response. Meanwhile, murmurs about this

sudden change was heard throughout the theater.

"Uh... this isn't so delightful for me though," Ayanokouji raised his hand.

"Hm? And?" replied The Voice.

Hearing this, Ayanokouji went silent and seemingly pondered something for a while. A full five minutes passed and he finally looked up, on his face was a slight scowl.

"Are you... from there?" he asked, leaving almost everyone confused.

"What do you mean, Ayanokouji-kun?" Horikita asked the question on everyone's minds, but Ayanokouji didn't answer, he simply kept looking up and waiting for an answer from The Voice.

"Hm... from there? Do you, by chance, mean the White Room?" replied The Voice. The scowl on Ayanokouji's face got ever so slightly more intense when he heard that.

Needless to say, this only made the crowd's confusion worse. They looked around to see if there's anyone among them who's familiar with the 'White Room'.

Meanwhile, Sakayanagi couldn't help but laugh, seeing the confusion on people's face. Hearing this, the ones close to her side-eyed her, clearly suspicious of what she knows.

"The White Room? What's that, Ayanokouji-kun?" this time, it was Ichinose who asked.

There was a second of silence from him, but soon after, Ayanokouji sighed and sit down. "I'm sure you'll find out at some point."

Ichinose, among many others, were confused, but respected his decisions nonetheless.

"Anyways, guess that's that. Don't forget what I said, 'kay? If I hear anyone fussing about any continuity errors... let's just say it won't be pretty," with that ominous warning, the screen finally begins to

come back to life, but before it can fully do so...

"Oh, right, we'll be going back in time for a bit here. This one happens right after Horikita's study group plan failed, 'kay?"

... the voice spoke one last time.

Ayanokouji was seen leaving the library.

"Where did she go?" he said to himself. He wanted to chase after Kushida to thank her for working so hard to get the study group together, and to apologize.

Part of him also wanted to get along with a cute girl as much as possible.

"Eh? That doesn't sound like him at all," Satou chuckled.

"Well, believe it or not, I am still a guy," replied Ayanokouji

"Still though, you're usually all gloomy and indifferent, so it's hard to see you as the lusty type, y'know?" Kei interjected, earning a few nods from her friends.

"Really? I don't think it's that weird..." replied Ayanokouji.

He then pulled out his phone, and tried calling Kushida, visibly nervous. The phone rang twice, and then thrice, but she didn't pick up.

***"Did she not notice me calling? Or is she refusing to answer it?"* he wondered as he began to look around. He soon got inside the school and when he did, he saw Kushida's back.**

He looked at the time with his phone, it was already 6 PM, so he wondered what she would be doing here if she didn't have any clubs.

"Hm? What's Kushida-chan doing at school in 6 PM?" asked Ike, to no one in particular, while looking at Kushida, who was spacing out with a distressed face.

"Well, this is Kushida we're talking about, she probably has a friend she's waiting for, or something," he reasoned as he kept up the chase.

"Ah, that makes sense, but..." Ichinose glances at her friend, very concerned about why she's acting the way she is.

"If she's busy, then I'll just talk to her later."

Ayanokouji continued to follow her footsteps to the second floor, the third floor, and then the next.

***"The next level is the roof, right? Shouldn't it be close by now?"* Ayanokouji thought as he continued to ascend the stairs, trying his hardest to hide his presence.**

To this, the crowd expressed confusion and anticipation. Excluding Ayanokouji and Kushida, only a few people had even an inkling of what was about to happen.

Hearing that someone was on the roof, he gently leaned against the handrail and peeked through the rooftop door. Through it, he saw Kushida, alone.

***"Is she meeting up with someone? Her boyfriend, maybe? In that case, I could end up being cornered from both sides,"* Ayanokouji began to think about sneaking away, while he did so, he heard Kushida set down her bag before speaking.**

"Ahhh, so annoying!" she said in a voice so low it didn't sound like her at all.

"Huh?" It took a quick second for everyone to clock in that that was Kushida's voice.

"She's seriously annoying! God, how irritating. It'd be better if she just died!" she grumbled to herself.

"Huh? K-Kushida-chan?" Mii-chan muttered, as many others were also doing, she looked at her friend with stunned eyes. Even the teachers were shocked.

"Ugh, I hate stuck-up, snobby girls who think they're so cute. Why is she such a harpy? A rotten girl like her couldn't possibly tutor me," she continued.

"Kushida-san, is that... really you?" asked Ichinose.

"No... no! Our Kushida-chan wouldn't say these things! This has to be fake!" exclaimed Ike.

"Y-Yeah, it has to be!" some other people followed.

"Excuse me, but can I ask why all of you are surprised?" Sakayanagi interjected, "You do understand that no person can be purely good, yes?"

"S-Shut up, you don't know anything! Kushida-chan's an a-angel!" Yamauchi retorted.

A frown could be seen on Sakayanagi's face for a millisecond, but she said nothing and went silent.

"H-Hey, Kushida, this isn't you, right?" even Kei, who weren't that close with her, was shocked, so she looked to the person in question for confirmation.

Confirmation that she didn't actually say any of this, confirmation that she really is the angel she seemed to be, but Kushida didn't confirm anything.

She stayed silent, which, if anything, just confirmed the opposite what they wanted. She confirmed that she did have a hidden, devilish side to her.

"Alright, pipe down now, everyone, talk when this is over," The Voice had to step in and quell the chaos.

"Is she talking about... Horikita?"

"Ah, she's the worst! She's just the worst, the worst, the worst! Horikita, you're so annoying! You're so damn annoying!"

The audience's mouths gaped wider and wider with each and every

word that came out of Kushida's mouth. They could hardly believe what was happening.

Seeing the unbelievable sight of Kushida's hidden side, Ayanokouji thought about leaving immediately, but before he did so, a question popped up in his head.

"Why had she agreed to work with me if she felt such hatred toward Horikita? Kushida should have understood Horikita's personality and behavior perfectly well by now."

"She could have refused to help, or just left the study group to Horikita, or otherwise washed her hands of involvement."

"Why force herself into the study group? Did she want to get along with Horikita? Or did she want to become closer to another participant?"

"Yeah, those are all great questions, but..." Hashimoto muttered.

"If he himself can't answer it, then I doubt we can." Kamuro answered.

But none of it made sense to Ayanokouji, her decisions seemed utterly nonsensical. But then, he had a thought.

"No. She may have shown signs of this from the very beginning. I hadn't really thought about it before, but considering the state she was in right now, it's possible. Perhaps, Kushida and Horikita were..."

"Oh?" hearing Ayanokouji's thoughts intrigued Horikita.

However, interrupting himself, he decided to get out of here as fast as possible, thinking it would be dangerous if she found him out, but when he did...

Thump!

He foolishly kicked the door louder than he intended to. Hearing it, Kushida tensed and stopped breathing. She then saw Ayanokouji.

A lot of people in the crowd visibly and audibly flinched at this intense situation. They clearly couldn't handle it.

After a brief silence, Kushida coldly asked, "What... are you... doing here?"

Seeing Kushida's cold and intense glare sent shivers down most of the students' spines. The sheer contrast of how Kushida was acting and how they knew Kushida made the entire situation all the more chilling.

"I got a little lost. Sorry. My bad, my bad. I'll be going now," Ayanokouji replied.

Kushida looked straight at Ayanokouji, not believing anything he just said.

"Did you hear?" she asked.

"Would you believe me if I said I didn't?" Ayanokouji replied.

"I see..."

The crowd held their breath in anticipation of what Kushida's about to do.

Kushida briskly walked down the stairs. She placed her left forearm against Ayanokouji's throat and pushed him up against the wall.

Her tone of voice, her actions, everything about her was completely unlike the Kushida he knew.

"Damn, and here I am, thinking she was just like Ichinose, a pathetic little goody-two-shoes. Looks like Kushida, there, is quite a piece of work, huh?" commented Ryuen, seemingly trying to provoke the Class D students, but no one, not even Ike, gave him any attention.

"If you tell anyone what you just heard, I won't forgive you."

"And if I did tell?"

"In that case, I would tell everyone that you raped me," she said.

Hearing this, naturally, chaos erupted from the crowd. However, unexpectedly, the loudest of them all, was Sakura Airi.

"W-W-What?! No! Ayanokouji-kun would never do that!" she exclaimed with a voice louder than anyone, and even herself, thought she could go.

In an instant, the chaos was quelled and all attention was redirected towards Sakura, who promptly sat back down, her face red as a tomato.

"Thank you, Sakura-san," said Ayanokouji, looking directly at Sakura's eyes when he did so, turning her face even redder, somehow.

"That's a false charge, you know."

"That's okay. It wouldn't be false."

Her words had heft and power, leaving Ayanokouji unable to reply. As she spoke, Kushida grabbed his right wrist and slowly opened my hand. She pushed his palm up against her soft breast.

"Woah, woah, what the hell?! She's absolutely insane!" exclaimed Hashimoto, like many others, he was clearly disturbed.

"T-To think Kushida-san would do something like this..." Ichinose muttered.

"Y-Yeah. Thank god she isn't in our class..." said Shibata, earning nods from his classmates.

"H-Hey! Hold on a minute! W-We don't even know if this is really true or not, right, Kanji?!" Sudou turned to his friend, but, nothing. Ike was completely speechless.

"Tch. Hey, Kushida! Say something already will ya?!" Sudou yelled.

"Yeah, explain already!" Kei had unexpectedly rallied with Sudou, joining her were her group of friends.

"Yeah, yeah!"

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"Shut up already..." a quiet voice was barely heard from Kushida.

"Huh? What'd you say?"

"I said shut the fuck up already!" and there it was, Kushida had snapped. She had shown everyone proof that what was happening on the screen was, indeed, real.

"Fucking babbling like idiots, you're all so fucking annoying!" Kushida continued, as if she hadn't made her point. No one could say anything back.

"You guys are lucky this happened now when I haven't had the chance to get anyone's secret. Otherwise, you'd be absolutely fucking screaming at each other by now."

She stared daggers at each and everyone of her classmates, who were, naturally, struck silent. Except, there was one who stood up to her.

"Kushida-san, please stop this," It was Hirata. His face was unexpectedly intense.

Knowing she had said everything she wanted to say, Kushida sat back down. Seeing this, Hirata breathed a sigh of relief before turning to his shocked classmates.

"Everyone, please calm down, I'm sure we just need to set aside some time to talk with Kushida-san and we'll be back to normal," he

said. With his leadership, Class D slowly calmed down, including Ike, who was the most affected by the situation.

Meanwhile, the other classes' leaders make a mental note of Hirata, who quickly and expertly managed the chaos.

"What are you doing?" Ayanokouji asked. He hurriedly tried to pull away, but she pushed on the back of his hand.

"Your fingerprints are on my clothes. That's evidence of my claim. I'm being serious. Understand?"

"I understand. I really do. So let go of my hand."

"I'm going to leave this uniform in my room without washing it. If you betray me, I'll hand it over to the police." Ayanokouji glared at Kushida for a while as she kept his hand pressed against her.

"It's a promise," she said. Kushida stepped away from me.

Even though this was the first time I had felt a girl's breasts, I found I couldn't remember the sensation.

"Hey, Kushida. Which is the real you?"

Everyone, who had the same question, looked at Kushida. They couldn't help but wonder if it had all been a lie.

Noticing this, Kushida quickly pushed the gazes away with a simple, "What? Tch."

"That's none of your business."

"I see. Well, I was wondering something. If you hate Horikita, then you don't need to involve yourself with her, right?"

Ayanokouji knew she probably wouldn't like that question, but he was still curious about her motivation.

"Is it bad to want everyone to like you? Do you understand how difficult it is to accomplish that? You can't know, can

you?" she asked.

"Well, I don't have that many friends, so I guess not."

Ever since the first day of school, Kushida had made an effort to exchange contact information with, invite out, and, of course, talk with the pessimistic Horikita. One could easily imagine how difficult and time- consuming that would be.

"At least on the surface, I wanted to appear to get along with Horikita."

"But the stress of that just kept building, huh?"

"Yeah. That's what I want out of life, though. That way, my existence has meaning." She answered without hesitation. Kushida had a singular way of thinking. Her own internal rules demanded she get close to Horikita.

Hearing this, Class D in particular took mental notes, after all knowing Kushida would help a lot in getting along with her again, right?

"Let me tell you something, while I have the chance. I absolutely despise gloomy, ordinary guys like you."

The fantasy of a cute Kushida that Ayanokouji had carried until now had been shattered, but he wasn't actually that shocked. Most people possessed both a public face and a private, inner self, after all.

"That's... certainly true, but still, there's not usually this much difference," Yukimura spoke.

"Yeah, you're right. I guess that's how she's 'defected' and why she's in Class D, right, Sensei?" replied Haruka, looking at the teachers, who gave absolutely no hint away.

"Really? I mean, that makes sense and all, but then, what about Hirata?" Akito, also from Class D, replied, turning all attention onto Class D's leader.

"Does he have some, secret, horrible personality like Kushi--" Akito continued speaking but he was interrupted by Kushida.

"Horrible?" she said, back to her usual, cheery personality.

"I-I mean..." sweat dripped down Akito's face before... "Wait a second, why are you back to your usual self?" he and the rest of the audience realized what was happening.

"Hm? What do you mean 'why'? Being mad all the time is bad for the skin, y'know!" she laughed, as if nothing had ever happened.

The sight send shivers to everyone's spine. They had realized just how terrifying Kushida really was.

"I'm just speculating, but did you and Horikita know each other before this year? Maybe you both attended the same school in the past?"

And just like that, their fear over Kushida subsided and what replaced it was confusion and curiousity.

Kushida also seemed startled, as if she forgot this exchange happened. Meanwhile, amongst all the confusion, Ayanokouji had confirmed the truth.

"So I was right," he said, just loud enough for Horikita, who was beside him, to hear.

"What do you mean?" asked Horikita.

"You weren't the least bit surprised or confused when I said it. So you obviously knew I would ask her that. You wouldn't have think that if it wasn't true that you guys knew each other."

"...I see."

"Don't worry, though, I won't ask any more. I'm sure we'll find out soon anyway."

The instant she heard it, Kushida shuddered in response.

"What the... I don't know what you mean. Did Horikita-san say something about me?" she snapped.

"No, I had the impression that this was the first time you'd met. But something seemed strange."

"Strange?" Ayanokouji recalled the first time Kushida had spoken to me.

"You learned my name only when I first introduced myself, right?"

"So what?" Kushida responded flatly.

"Well, where did you learn Horikita's name? Back then, she hadn't introduced herself to anyone yet. The only person who knew was Sudou, but I doubt you'd met him by then."

Everyone in the audience had a visible 'aha' moment.

"Wow, I didn't even think of that!" exclaimed Kei.

"Ayanokouji's... pretty sharp," said Yukimura, pushing his glasses up.

"What, Yukimuu, you scared he's going to overtake you in our tests?" teased Haruka

"H-Huh? What does that have to do with anything?!" said a flustered Yukimura, not even noticing what Haruka just called him, which does nothing but make Haruka and many others laugh.

"You got close to me so you could spy on her, right?"

"Just shut up. Hearing you talk irritates me, Ayanokouji-kun. I only want to know one thing. Do you swear you'll never tell anyone what you learned here today?"

"I swear. Even if I did, it's not like anyone would believe me. Right?" The entire class trusted and loved Kushida. The difference between the two of them was like night and day.

"Okay. I believe you, Ayanokouji-kun." Kushida closed her eyes and slowly exhaled. "Horikita-san is rather unusual, isn't she?"

"Yes, I'd say she's really unusual."

"I'd say she's more than unusual, honestly," said Yamauchi, with a few agreeing with him.

"Other people don't influence her, or rather, she keeps her distance from everyone else. She's the complete opposite of me."

Kushida and Horikita really were polar opposites.

"You know, Ayanokouji-kun, you're the only one that Horikita-san opens up to."

"Yeah, exactly. What's that about, you two?" asked Kei, many others also expressed their interests in knowing.

"There's absolutely nothing between us," said Horikita, not missing a beat. Hearing this, everyone turned to Ayanokouji, who immediately nodded.

"R-Really?" Sakura asked, to which Ayanokouji nodded. She was clearly relieved.

"You know, Sakura-san, you really like Ayanokouji-kun, don't you?" asked Kei.

"E-E-Eh?! W-What do you mean?!" Sakura exclaimed, blushing hard. Her reaction made Kei and many others laugh.

Meanwhile, "They sure recovered quick, don't they?" Kanzaki asked Ichinose.

"Yeah, I'm still reeling from the reveal of Kushida-san's personality," she replied, laughing sheepishly.

"I wonder how they'll deal with her going forward."

"Yeah, I'm curious, too."

"Wait a minute. She doesn't open up to me. Absolutely not."

"Even so, she seems to trust you more than anyone else. Out of all the people I've ever met, Horikita seems the most wary of others and yet also the most self-confident. She certainly wouldn't trust anyone worthless, even if they were unbelievably kind."

Everyone in Class D, agreed with this assessment of Horikita.

"So, you think she has good instincts for people?"

"That's why I said I believed you. Ayanokouji-kun, you're fundamentally indifferent to other people, aren't you?"

Ayanokouji didn't remember doing anything that would make her think so, but Kushida seemed confident in her assessment.

"It's not an out-of-place judgment. Back on the bus, you didn't show any interest in giving up your seat to the elderly woman."

***"Ah, so that's what she was talking about,"* Ayanokouji said to himself.**

"She'd picked up on what was happening that first day. She had understood that I'd no intention of giving up my seat."

"If you believe I'm telling the truth, then you won't spread pointless rumors," said Ayanokouji.

"If you were really so confident, you wouldn't have felt up my breasts."

"Well, that's... I was really flustered. I panicked for a second." Her stern expression melted into one of impatience.

"So, Kushida, would I be right to think of you as the kind of girl who lets guys touch her breasts?"

"H-Huh?!" said everyone in unison before quickly laughing, they hadn't expected a joke coming from Ayanokouji.

"I guess Ayanokouji-kun can joke around too, huh?" said Sato.

"Of course, I can," replied Ayanokouji, seemingly offended.

"Sorry, sorry, it's just that you're usually emotionless, y'know?"

"Hm, I guess you're right."

She kicked Ayanokouji's thigh as hard she could. Panicking, he grabbed the railing.

"Hey, watch it! I could've fallen and gotten seriously hurt!"

"I kicked you because you said something stupid!" Kushida snapped, her face flushed from anger.

"Hey, wait a minute."

She still looked furious. Kushida tromped back up the stairs, grabbed her bag, then returned wearing a huge grin.

"Let's head back together," she said brightly.

"Oh. Sure."

Her attitude had drastically changed, like something out of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde. It was so drastic that I wondered whether I'd had a bad dream. She was her usual sunny self once more. I couldn't tell which Kushida was the real one.

Everyone once again got chills seeing this, they really couldn't believe how easy it was for her to switch up.

This atmosphere made it hard for anyone to speak up, and so, The Voice spoke.

"Okay then, does anyone have anything to say?"

Hirata looked at his classmates before raising his hand, "Excuse me, can you throw us in a private room like you did with Kushida-san earlier?"

Hearing this, Kushida scoffed, "Forget it, I'm not listening to

anything you say."

"Still, we want to talk, right, everyone?" Hirata looked around at his classmates, who nods at his statement.

"Tch."

"Okay, then--"

"Nope, not happening," The Voice suddenly spoke.

"H-Huh? What do you mean?" asked Hirata.

"I'm saying I'm not doing anything for you."

"But, why not?"

"Because that's boring, 'kay?" said The Voice, shocking everyone in the room. "I'm not here to help you guys with your class drama or something, you know that, right?"

"W-Well, yeah, but--"

"I'm here to make you guys watch stuff, so I can have fun, and that doesn't sound fun at all. So we're not doing it, got that?"

"Y-Yeah."

"Alrighty, then, let's move on, shall we?"

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